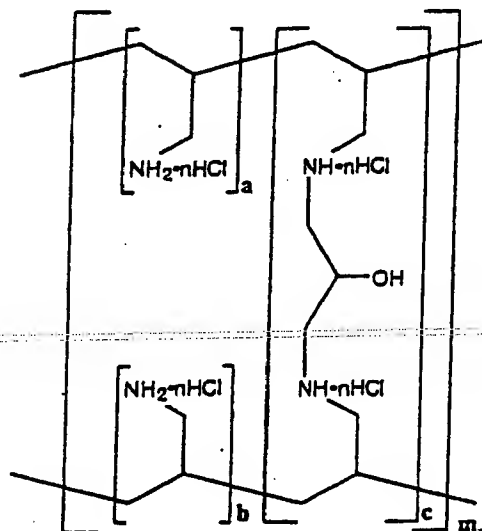


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A phosphate-binding polymer that is represented by the formula



where the molar ratio of (a+b) to c is ~~form~~ from 45:1 to 2:1 and m is an integer and which has a true specific gravity of 1.18-1.24.

Claim 2. (Original) The phosphate-binding polymer according to claim 1 which has a true specific gravity of 1.20 - 1.22.

Claim 3. (Original) The phosphate-binding polymer according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of (a+b):c is from 20:1 to 4:1.

Claim 4. (Original) A tablet comprising the particles of a phosphate-binding polymer having an

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average particle size of no more than 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and having a true specific gravity of 1.18 - 1.24 and a water content of 1 - 14%.

Claim 5. (Original) The tablet according to claim 4 which has a true specific gravity of 1.20 - 1.22.

Claim 6. (Previously amended) The tablet according to claim 4, wherein said particles of a phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 7. (Previously amended) The tablet according to claim 1, which further contains crystalline cellulose and/or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

Claim 8. (Original) The tablet according to claim 7, wherein the content of the crystalline cellulose and/or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is at least 10 wt% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

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Claim 9. (Previously amended) The tablet according to claim 7, wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0 - 16.0 wt% substitution by hydroxypropoxyl groups.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously amended) The tablet according to any one of claims 3 - 9, wherein the phosphate-binding polymer is one that is obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claim 12. (Previously amended) The tablet according to claim 4 which further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 13. (Previously amended) The tablet according to claim 4 which is coated on the surface with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 14. (Original) A process for producing phosphate-binding polymer tablets which comprises:

grinding a phosphate-binding polymer having a true specific gravity of 1.18 - 1.24 into particles having an average particle size of no more than 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , said phosphate-binding polymer being either polyallamine or obtained by crosslinking the same;

adjusting the phosphate-binding polymer particles to a water content of 1 - 14%;

mixing the particles with crystalline cellulose and/or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose; and

compressing the mixture into tablets.

Claim 15. (Original) The process according to claim 14, wherein said phosphate-binding polymer is ground into particles having an average particle size of no more than 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 16. (Previously added) A table comprising the phosphate-binding polymer of claim 1.

Claim 17. (Previously added) A tablet comprising the phosphate-binding polymer of claim 2.

Claim 18. (Previously added) A tablet comprising the phosphate-binding polymer of claim 3.

Claim 19. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 16, wherein the polymer has a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22.

Claim 20. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 16 wherein the polymer has an average particle size of no more than 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and with a water content of 1-14%.

Claim 21. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 20 wherein the polymer has an average particle size of no more than 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 22. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 16 which further contains a component selected from the group consisting of crystalline cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 23. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 22 wherein the content of the component is at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

Claim 24. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 22 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

Claim 25. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 23 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

Claim 26. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 16 which further contains a hardened oil.

Claim 27. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 16 which is coated with a water-soluble film base.

Claim 28. (Previously added) The tablet according to claim 5 wherein said particles of a

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phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250  $\mu\text{m}$ , with at least 90% of the particles being no larger than 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .